

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are currently pending in the present application, all of which have been amended

The dependency of Claim 21 has been amended from Claim 71 to Claim 17. Thus, the claim objection is believed to be overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 4, 9-10, 12, 17-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hind et al.* (US 6,463,440) in view of *Risvik* (US 6,377,945). Applicants respectfully traverse such rejection insofar as it might apply to the claims as amended herein.

Amended Claim 1 (and similarly Claims 8 and 17) now recites steps of "performing a full match search within a lookup table utilizing said search key," "in response to finding a match within said lookup table, returning to said constructing a search key," and "in response to not finding a match within said lookup table, utilizing a previous full match search result to process said data string."

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the above-mentioned claimed steps are disclosed by *Hind* in col. 9, lines 4-30 and col. 11, lines 10-25. In essence, col. 11, lines 10-25 is summarized in Figure 5 of *Hind*. It is clear that Figure 5 of *Hind* does not teach or suggest the finding of a match within a lookup table and the responses to the two different findings. Because the cited references, whether considered separately or in combination, do not teach or suggest the claimed invention, the § 103 rejection is believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-24 are currently pending in the present application. For the reasons stated above, Applicants believe that independent Claims 1, 8 and 17 along with their respective dependent claims are in condition for allowance. The remaining prior art cited by the Examiner

but not relied upon has been reviewed and is not believed to show or suggest the claimed invention.

No fee or extension of time is believed to be necessary; however, in the event that any fee or extension of time is required for the prosecution of this application, please charge it against IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 50-0563.

Respectfully submitted,



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